

REMARKS

Claims 1-27 are rejected as being anticipated by Takamatsu.

It is respectfully submitted that Takamatsu fails to teach or suggest converting the images into a digital bitmap and reassigning the digital value of the interior pixels and edge pixel values independently to minimize print sensitivity to differing line screen frequencies between images.

The Examiner argues the steps of converting the images into a digital bitmap comprised of an array of pixels wherein each pixel is assigned a digital value representing marking information is taught in Takamatsu at column 11, lines 5-17, wherein it is stated "The image output unit 300 uses the two-component magnetic brush development of the electrophotographic type in the image output unit 300, the output image data, from the image processing unit 200, whose time series direction is set to a direction corresponding to the main scanning direction of the image output unit 300 as described above, is converted into a binary signal whose pulse width has been modulated in accordance with the pixel value, that is, a screen signal by a screen generator 390, a laser diode 381 of the laser light scanner 380 is driven through the screen signal to obtain laser light L from the laser diode 381, that is, the laser light scanner 380, and the laser light L is irradiated onto a photosensitive drum 310. "

The Examiner further argues that reassigning the digital value of pixels is taught in Takamatsu at column 13, lines 31-46 where it is stated "In this example, however, the pixel value for the input image data from the gradation correction means 240 is corrected at the image correction unit 250 in the image processing unit 200. FIG. 4 shows a concrete example of the image correction unit 250, which is composed of edge detection means 251, an edge list 252, pixel value calculation means 253, correction determination means 254, characteristic description means 255, and pixel value correction means 256. In the edge detection means 251, from the input image data Si, from the gradation correction means 240, whose time series direction has been set to a direction corresponding to the subscanning direction of the image output unit 300 as described above, the position, direction, and pixel value of the image edge can be detected. "

Applicant's submit that this teaching in Takamatsu of taking a pixel value for input image data from a gradation correction means and correcting it in an image correction unit in the image processing unit and then providing this data to an output image data to be converted into a binary signal whose pulse width has been modulated in accordance with the pixel value, that is, a screen signal by a screen generator to obtain laser light L from a laser diode irradiated onto a photosensitive drum **is not** a teaching of converting images into a digital bitmap comprised of an array of pixels wherein each pixel is assigned a digital value representing marking information, defining each pixel as either a background pixel, interior pixel, or an edge pixel, reassigning the digital value of the interior pixels to a fixed interior pixel value; and reassigning the edge pixel values so as to minimize print sensitivity to differing line screen frequencies between images. In other words, reassignment of pixel values is occurring in Takamatsu **before** the images are converted into a digital bitmap comprised of an array of pixels having marking value, which is opposite the claimed invention. Takamatsu therefore does not anticipate the claimed invention.

Claims 1-27 have been cancelled, thereby rendering their rejection moot.

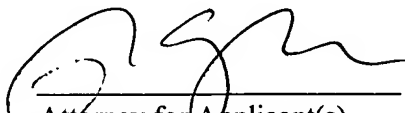
New claims 28-40 have been entered to clarify the step of converting the images into a digital bitmap. The claims now clarify the steps of rasterizing page description digital data (RIP data) and then rendering the RIP data by defining Marked Pixels as either interior pixels or edge pixels and reassigning the digital value of the interior pixels and edge pixel values independently to minimize print sensitivity to differing line screen frequencies between images. This is to clarify that the claimed rendering occurs post RIP. Takamatsu fails to teach or suggest this. All image correction in Takamatsu is performed before image output unit 800.

Claim 34 further clarifies that the page description digital data is interpreted into a list of multiple objects within the image. Takamatsu fails to teach or suggest this.

Takamatsu also fails to teach or suggest minimizing print sensitivity to differing line screen frequencies between images.

It is believed that with this clarification, claims 28-40 are allowable and allowance of the same is hereby respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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If the Examiner is unable to reach the Applicant(s) Attorney at the telephone number provided, the Examiner is requested to communicate with Eastman Kodak Company Patent Operations at (585) 477-4656.